AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

By this Response, Applicants are canceling Claims 1–5, 23–38 and 52–62 without prejudice or disclaimer and are amending Claims 6 and 39. Claims 7–22 and 40–51 remain as originally filed.

1.–5. Cancelled

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer network file system of Claim 2~~ A computer network file system, comprising:

first metadata managed primarily by a first file server operably connected to a network fabric, wherein said first metadata comprises at least one Gnid-string and first file location information, said first file location information comprising a disk identifier and at least one server id ; and

second metadata managed primarily by a second file server operably connected to the network fabric, said second metadata comprising second file location information, said second file location information comprising at least one server identifier, said first metadata and said second metadata configured to allow a requestor to locate files stored by said first file server and files stored by said second file server in a directory structure that spans said first file server and said second file server.

7. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 6, wherein a one-to-one correspondence exists between said at least one Gnid-string and a directory owned by said first file server.

8. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 6, wherein said Gnid-string comprises a collection of gnids.

9. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 8, wherein each of said gnids comprises information for locating a specified gnode.

10. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 9, wherein said information for locating a specified gnode comprises a pointer to said specified gnode.

11. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 9, wherein said specified gnode comprises file attributes for a file corresponding to said gnode.

12. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 11, wherein said file attributes include at least one of a file id, a file access time, a file creation time, and a file modification time.

13. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 9, wherein said specified gnode comprises information for locating a first gee of a plurality of gees corresponding to said gnode.

14. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of gees comprises gnode gees and data gees.

15. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 14, wherein each of said gnode gees comprises information to specify an extent.

16. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 14, wherein each of said data gees comprises information to specify a first logical disk block and information to specify a disk that contains said first logical block.

17. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 13, wherein said plurality of gees further comprises parity gees.

18. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 17, wherein each of said parity gees comprises information regarding location of parity data for one or more preceding data gees in said plurality of gees.

19. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 13, wherein a parity group comprises a first set of one or more data gees and an associated parity gee.

20. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 19, wherein each data gee identifies a block of data and said parity gee identifies a parity block.

21. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 20, wherein each block of data and parity in said parity group is stored on a separate disk drive such that no single disk drive contains data from two blocks said parity group.

22. (Original) The computer network file system of Claim 19, wherein a size of a first parity group is independent of a size of a second parity group.

23.–38. Cancelled

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 37~~ A method for storing data in a computer network, comprising:

creating first file system metadata on a first file server operably connected to a network fabric, wherein said first file system metadata comprises at least one Gnid-string and describes at least files and directories stored by said first file server;

creating second file system metadata on a second file server connected to said network fabric, said second file system metadata describing at least files and directories stored by said second file server, said first file system metadata and said second file system metadata comprising directory information that spans said first file server and said second file server, said directory information configured to allow a requestor to find a location of a first file catalogued in said directory information without prior knowledge as to a server location of said first file.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein a correspondence exists between said at least one Gnid-string and a directory corresponding to said first file server.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said Gnid-string comprises a collection of gnids.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, wherein each of said gnids comprises information for locating a specified gnode.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein said information for locating a specified gnode comprises a pointer to said specified gnode.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein said specified gnode comprises file attributes for a file corresponding to said gnode.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 44, wherein said file attributes include at least one of a file id, a file access time, a file creation time, and a file modification time.

46. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein said specified gnode comprises information for locating a first gee of a plurality of gees corresponding to said gnode.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 46, wherein said plurality of gees comprises gnode gees and data gees.

48. (Original) The method of Claim 47, wherein each of said gnode gees comprises information to specify a logical block extent.

49. (Original) The method of Claim 47, wherein each of said data gees comprises information to specify a first logical disk block and information to specify a disk that contains said first logical block.

50. (Original) The method of Claim 49, further comprising defining a plurality of parity gees.

51. (Original) The method of Claim 50, wherein each of said parity gees comprises information regarding location of parity data for one or more preceding data gees in said plurality of gees.

52.–64. Cancelled